

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

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CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA

CNO WASHDC//OP-614
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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XC
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 12

1. SUMMARY:

-- U.S. COVERAGE IS MODERATE IN VOLUME BUT UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE IN TONE, WITH ITEMS ON CIA ACTIVITIES, THE MILITARY BUDGET, YOUTH PROBLEMS, NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND LOCKHEED PAY-OFFS;
-- ON ANGOLA, THE MEDIA WELCOME THE MPLA REGIME'S ACCEPTANCE FOR OAU MEMBERSHIP (SEPTEL);
-- THE FRENCH-SOMALI DISPUTE OVER DJIBOUTI SURFACES FOR THE FIRST TIME (SEPTEL);
-- A MAJOR ARTICLE ON LAW OF THE SEA SETS OUT THE SOVIET POSITION ON SEVERAL KEY LOS ISSUES CALLING FOR THEIR RESOLUTION IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND OPPOSING ALLEGED MAOIST OBSTRUCTIONISM (SEPTEL);
-- GRIGOR'YANTS IN IZVESTIYA DENOUNCES THOSE WESTERN OBSERVERS WHO SLANDER THE SUCCESSES OF THE SOVIET ECONOMY;
-- THE RESULTS OF THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ARE REPORTED WITH IMPLICIT APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. U.S.-RELATED MEDIA ITEMS ARE ABOUT AVERAGE IN VOLUME AND ALL ARE NEGATIVE. PRAVDA'S REGULAR "COMMENTATOR" COLUMN, BY BORIS OREKHOV, REPORTS ON EFFORTS TO SQUELCH THE PIKE COMMISSION'S REPORT ON CIA SECRET OPERATIONS ABROAD. THE PRESS HAS ALREADY REPORTED THE STOREIS OF CIA EFFORTS IN INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SAYS OREKHOV,

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AND SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES. A TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING OF THE PENTAGON BUDGET--"THE LARGEST MILITARY BUDGET IN U.S. HISTORY"--DESPITE CONTINUING ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ANOTHER TASS ITEM REPORTS CPUSA GENERAL SECRETARY GUS HALL SAYING THAT YOUNG AMERICANS HAVE NEVER FACED SUCH PROBLEMS AS THEY DO NOW, BUT PRAISING THEM FOR THEIR OPPOSITION TO "U.S. INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA" AND ELSEWHERE. REPORTS OF NATO SECRETARY

GENERAL LUNS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON ARE LARDED
WITH REMARKS ABOUT U.S.-NATO "COORDINATION" ON ANGOLA,
ABOUT STRENGTHENING NATO'S POSITION IN THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN AND ON DISCUSSING THE ANGLO-ICELANDIC PROBLEM.
FINALLY, SEVERAL ITEMS REPORT REPERCUSSIONS,
ESPECIALLY IN JAPAN, ABOUT REVELATIONS OF LOCKHEED PAYOFFS TO
PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES.

3. SOVIET ECONOMY. A. GRIGOR'YANTS, WRITING IN IZVESTIYA,
TAKES SHARP ISSUE WITH THOSE IN THE WEST WHO CRITICIZE
THE SOVIET ECONOMY. USING COMPARATIVE STATISTICS,
GRIGOR'YANTS SHOWS THAT THE USSR IS DEVELOPING RAPIDLY
AND THAT WESTERN ECONOMIES ARE FOUNDERING. THOSE WHO
SAY OTHERWISE ARE "SLANDERERS" WHO FALSIFY THE TRUE
PICTURE, SAYS GRIGOR'YANTS. HIS LINE, WHILE SOMEWHAT
MORE DETAILED, FOLLOWS THAT OF PRAVDA, FEB 10.

4. ASEAN. PRAVDA FRONTPAGES A TASS ITEM ON THE RESULTS
OF THE PATHAYA MEETING OF THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS.
IT NOTES THAT THE FIVE MINISTERS ARRANGED FOR THE ASEAN
SUMMIT ON FEB 23 AND AGREED TO CONSULT ON WAYS TO
STRENGTHEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. TASS
SAYS THAT IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO INVITE THE JAPANESE
AND AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTERS TO THE SUMMIT IN ORDER "TO
LIMIT THE ASSOCIATION FROM POSSIBLE OUTSIDE PRESSURE. STOESSEL

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